

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The February 23, 2004 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims 1 and 7 are amended to include the subject matter of claim 17, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in a better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,734,915 (Roewer).

In response, independent claims 1 and 7 are amended to include the subject matter of claim 17 and now recite that the interface is arranged to cause the display unit to display a plurality of representative pictorials in a row adjacent one

another, each pictorial being formed from an image selected from a different group of coherent image data. This feature is described in the specification, e.g., at page 3, lines 6-10 and shown in Fig. 2.

A feature of the present invention is that a pictorial "representative" of an image selected from a group of coherent image data is formed and displayed on the display unit. The representative pictorial may be a small image showing coarse details of only one image of the group of image data. In the invention, instead of displaying all the image data, a single image is selected (from each group of coherent image data) which may be the best image and this image is used to form a pictorial representative of the entire group of image data. An easier visualization of the available image data is therefore provided by displaying only the pictorial and not the image data in its entirety.

Moreover, when multiple scans are performed by a medical modality, a plurality of pictorials, each representative of a single image selected from image data containing a plurality of images obtained during a respective scan, are displayed.

Roewer does not disclose, teach or suggest displaying a plurality of representative pictorials in a row adjacent one another.

The Examiner pointed to col. 4, lines 50-57 of Roewer as teaching a visual representation of the images and to col. 13, lines 35-47 and Figs. 4a-4c of Roewer as teaching display of a plurality of representative pictorials in rows adjacent one another. As described at col. 13, lines 35-47, Figs. 4a-4c show various different arrangements of windows in which images can be placed for printing purposes. The images can also be manipulated in the same manner as if they were laid on a desk top (see col. 4, lines 50-57).

In contrast to the present claimed invention, Roewer does not disclose, teach or suggest forming a plurality of pictorials, each representative of an image selected from a different group of coherent image data. Roewer at col. 4, lines 50-57 describes displaying the images themselves and not a pictorial formed from a selected one of the images. At col. 13, lines 35-47 with reference to Figs. 4a-4c, Roewer describes displaying the images in various different formats, including some in which images are displayed alongside one another.

There is a significant difference between the display of images alongside one another as in Roewer and the display of pictorials in a row as in the claimed invention. Specifically, the pictorials are representative of images each of which is selected from a different group of image data, i.e., a plurality

of groups of different images are obtained (e.g., each scan may constitute a group of images) and from each group of images, a single image is selected and a pictorial representative thereof is formed and displayed. When the pictorials are displayed, as in Fig. 2, the image data in its entirety is not displayed.

In contrast, the images being displayed in Roewer do not "represent" any other images, i.e., no image being displayed is formed or derived from another image selected as being representative of or exemplifying a group of images. Rather, each image can be independently resized to fit into a printing window having a specific shape and size.

In sum, Roewer does not disclose, teach or suggest an interface which causes a display unit to display a plurality of representative pictorials in a row adjacent one another, each pictorial being formed from an image selected from a different group of coherent image data, as now set forth in independent claims 1 and 7.

Moreover, Roewer does not disclose all of the features of the dependent claims. For example, Roewer does not disclose displaying applications for a coherent group of image data "simultaneously and in association with" the pictorial representation of the image selected from that coherent group of image data as set forth in claims 15 and 18. There is no

disclosure, teaching or suggestion at col. 15, lines 50-57 or col. 11, lines 45-54 of Roewer displaying pictorials representative of an image selected from a group of coherent image data at the same time as and in association with applications available for manipulation of the coherent image data (see Fig. 2 wherein the applications are directly below and align with the pictorials). The mere statement of an objective being to display only relevant information (col. 4, lines 50-57) does not constitute disclosure of the display of available applications simultaneously and in association with pictorials since relevance is a highly subjective criteria, what one may consider relevant another may consider irrelevant, whereas available applications are objective and determined by the operators' input.

Since Roewer does not disclose all of the features of claims 1 and 7, it cannot anticipate the invention set forth in claims 1 and 7 and claims 2-6, 8-16, 18 and 19 which depend from claim 1. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to modify Roewer in view of the teachings in Roewer and the prior art to arrive at the present claimed invention.

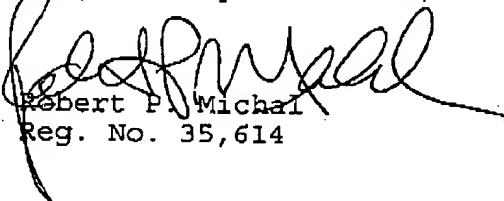
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-19 as being anticipated by Roewer has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims, and the passing of the application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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